Projects under EIA from Government of Tamil Nadu

3214. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects have been received under Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) from Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) how many projects are still pending for environmental clearance out of those projects; and

(c) the details of the pending projects and assessment of the EIA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) Five projects have been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu during the last three years seeking environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994. Out of these, two projects have been accorded environmental clearance. The remaining three pertaining to 100 MW Kuttalam Gas Turbine Power project of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Kollimalai Hydroelectric Project of Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, and Effluent treatment and disposal scheme of SIPCOT Industries, Cuddalore, are at various stages of examination for grant of environmental clearance.

Deteriorating quality of water of rivers due to pollution

†3215. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of water of rivers is continuously deteriorating due to pollution; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and concrete steps likely to be taken by Government to maintain its quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The discharge of municipal waste and industrial effluents are adversely affecting the quality of water of rivers. The Government is implementing National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for diverting and treating the municipal waste in 157 towns along 31 polluted stretches of major rivers in 18 States. A

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

total of 794 projects have been sanctioned so far under NRCP at a cost of Rs. 3089.59 crore.

Bio-medical waste by hospitals

3216. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM :
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tons of bio-medical waste released by hospitals/health units in the country are creating fertile ground for disease like hepatitis, cancer and AIDS;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken, so far, by Government for the bio-medical waste management by the hospitals in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that health units are committing crime against nature and instead of disposing off the bio-medical waste, they recycle it to earn money; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take against recycling of bio-medical waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Improper disposal of bio-medical wastes could pose danger to human health and environment.

(b) Steps taken for proper management of bio-medical wastes by the hospitals in the country, *inter alia*, include the following :

* Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 notified.
* State Pollution control Boards/Pollution control Committees designated as Prescribed Authorities for enforcing the provisions of Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules.
* 48 Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment facilities established in the country.

(c) and (d) As per the Rules, every health care establishment must take all steps to ensure that bio-medical waste is handled without any